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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF APPEALSIn re Patent Application of:
CHAPMAN ET AL.

Serial No. 09/596,629

Examiner: D. BLAIR

Confirmation No. 4379

Art Unit: 2142

Filing Date: June 19, 2000

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR
DISTRIBUTING AN INVENTION
DISCLOSURE OVER AN INTRANETAPPELLANT'S APPEAL BRIEFMS Appeal Brief-Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is Appellants' Appeal Brief together with the requisite \$500 large entity fee for filing a brief. If any additional extension and/or fee is required, authorization is given to charge Deposit Account No. 01-0484.

(1) Real Party in Interest

The real party in interest is Lockheed Martin Corporation, assignee of the present application as recorded at reel 011399, frame 0054.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

At present there are no related appeals or interferences.

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(3) Status of the Claims

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-28, 30-39, 41-49, 51-58, 60-68 and 70 are pending in the application, all of which are being appealed herein.

(4) Status of the Amendments

All amendments have been entered and there are no further pending amendments. A copy of the claims involved in this appeal is attached hereto as Appendix A.

(5) Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter

The present invention, as recited in independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet 10. See page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1 (reproduced below), as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2 (reproduced below). The method comprises accessing an invention disclosure template form (via display portion 50 in FIG. 3 as reproduced below) over the intranet 10, and creating an invention disclosure (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4 as reproduced below) using the invention disclosure template form (page 12, lines 10-24 and FIG. 5 as reproduced below). The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention (page 12, line 25 through page 13, line 10).

The method further comprises selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16 as reproduced below). A file is attached to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink. The file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and includes information

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about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.

The invention disclosure is submitted along with the attached file over the intranet 10 to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure. Evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file are transmitted by the at least one evaluator via e-mail (page 14, line 32 through page 15, line 10).

The present invention advantageously allows separately created files to be attached to the invention disclosure. As what typically happens with inventors, an inventor creates a file on their invention prior to creating and submitting an invention disclosure. The invention disclosure template form includes a provision to include these files as attachments. Without this provision, the additional information in the files would have to be retyped, or as a minimum, cut and pasted into the invention disclosure - both of which are labor intensive and time consuming as well as not being user friendly.

Independent Claim 12 is directed to a method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet 10. See page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1, as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2. The intranet 10 has a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet. The method comprises the steps of accessing an invention disclosure template form (via display portion 50 in FIG. 3) over the intranet, and creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4). The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention.

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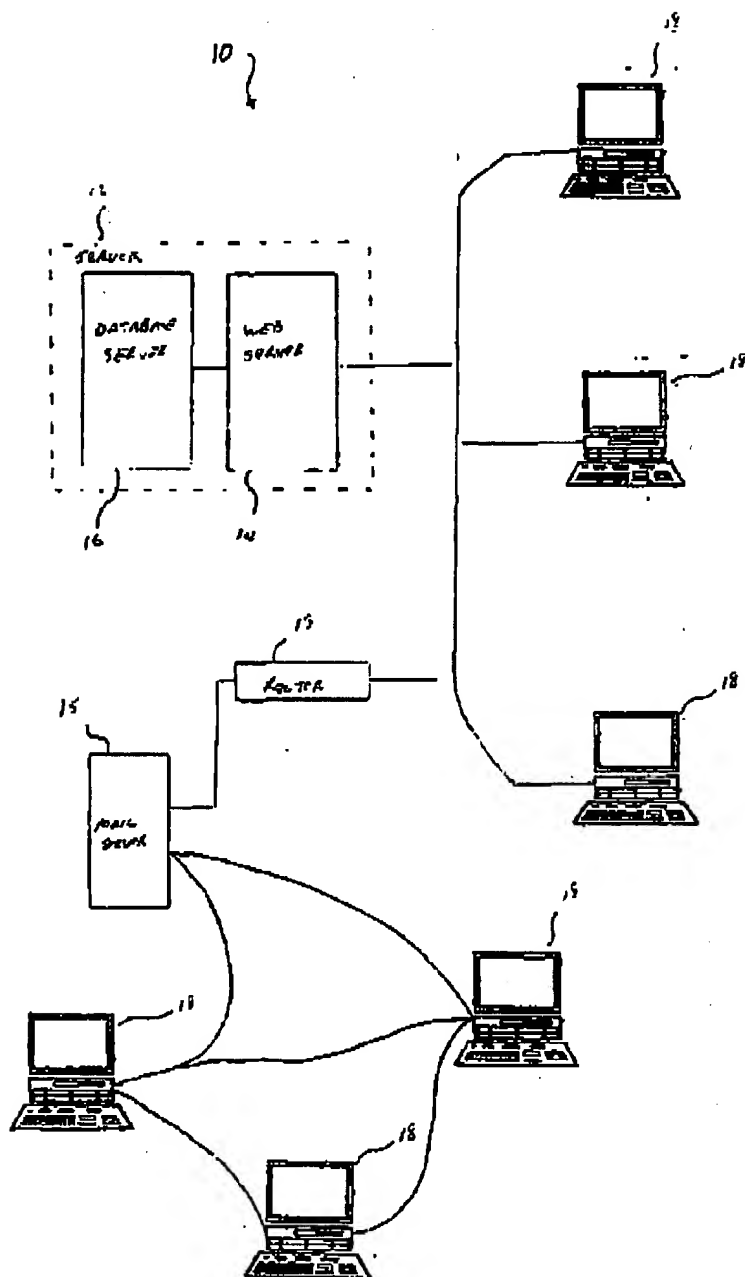


FIG. 1 of the present application

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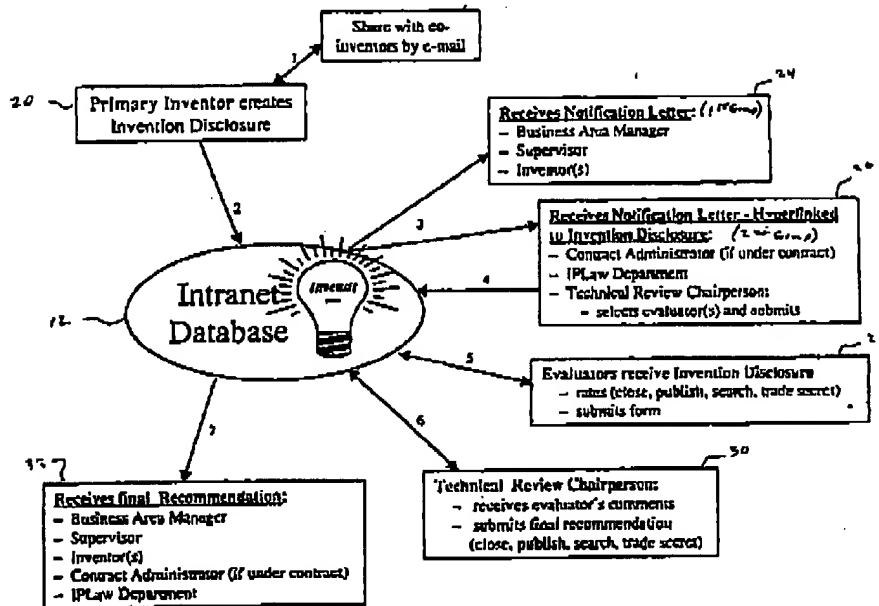


FIG. 2 of the present application

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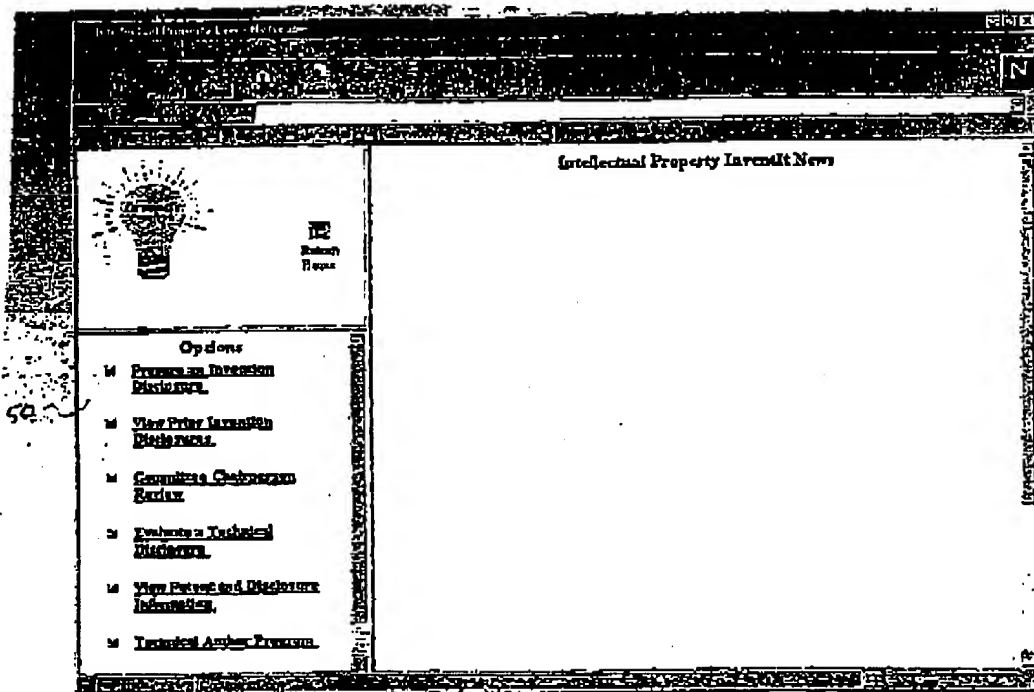


FIG. 3 of the present application

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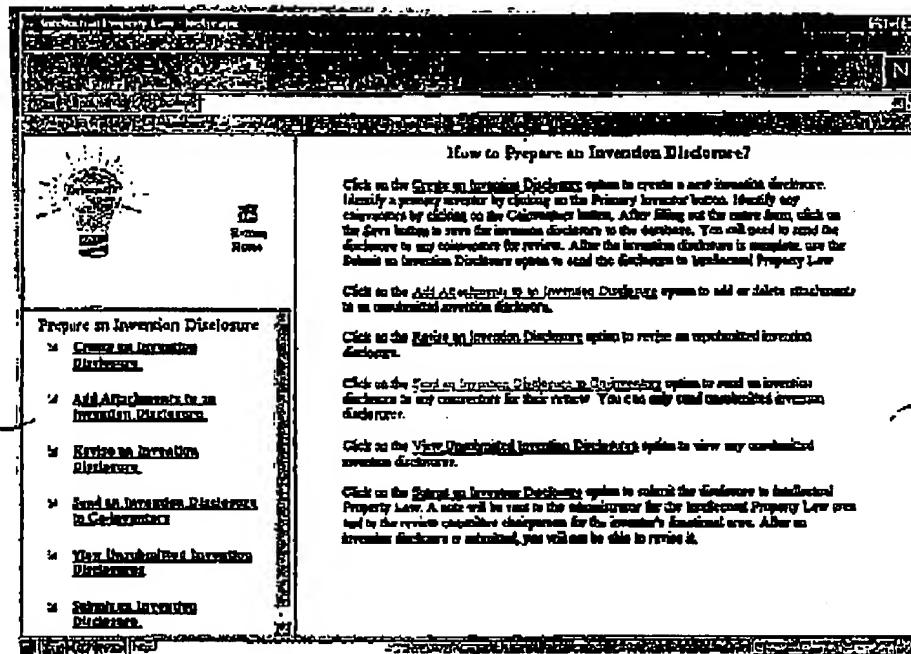


FIG. 4 of the present application

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The screenshot shows a web browser window with a title bar that reads "Microsoft Internet Explorer - Microsoft Corporation". The main content area displays a form for patent information. At the top, there is a header section with the following text: "Select a Primary Inventor", "Select any Co-Inventor", "Complete the remaining form", "Use Add Attachments to an Invention Disclosure system to add or delete attachments", "DO NOT ENTER ANY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION", and "Warning! Do not type the word 'SECRET' into the form". Below this header, there are several input fields and buttons. On the left side, there are labels for "Primary Inventor", "Co-Inventor", "Invention Title", "Functioned Area", and "Problem". On the right side, there are buttons labeled "Add Attachments", "Delete Attachments", "Save", and "Cancel". The form is divided into sections by horizontal lines. There are also some small icons and a search bar at the top right.

FIG. 5 of the present application

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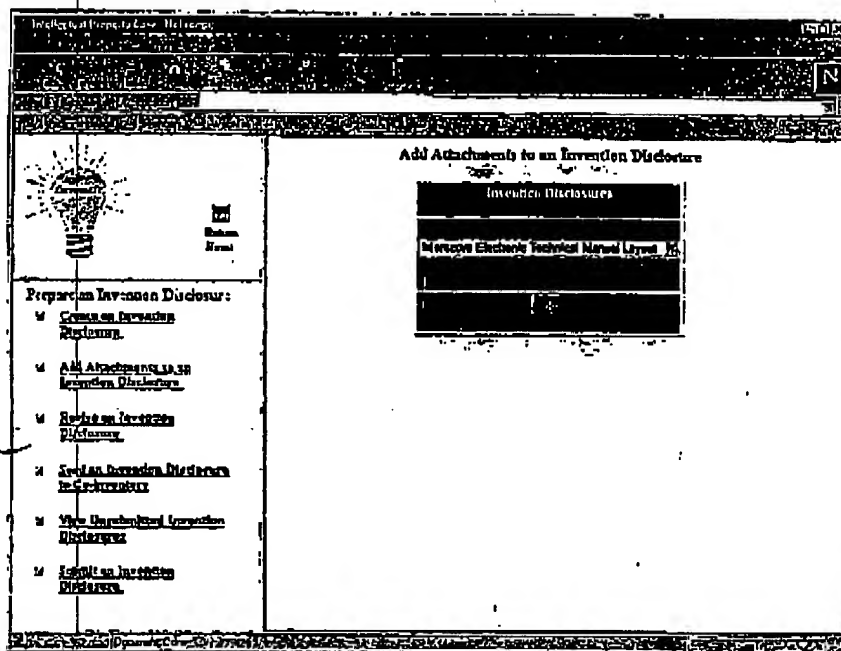


FIG. 16 of the present application

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The method further comprises selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure, and attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16). The file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure, and includes information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.

The invention disclosure is submitted along with the attached file over the intranet. A profile of the invention disclosure is created based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor (page 9, line 18 through page 10, line 2). A first notification message is transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, with the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 11-21).

At least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator. A second notification message is transmitted via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, with the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 22-31). Evaluation comments are submitted by the at least one evaluator, and a recommendation of the invention disclosure is submitted by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments. The recommendation of the invention disclosure is transmitted via e-mail to the first group of users (page 11, lines 9-22).

Independent Claim 31 is directed to an intranet 10 for distributing an invention disclosure. See page 7, line 3 through

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page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1, as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2. The intranet **10** comprises at least one computing device **18** comprising a plurality of software modules. The plurality of software modules comprise a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet (via display portion **50** in FIG. 3), and a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form (via display portion **52** in FIG. 4). The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention.

A third software module selects an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure. A fourth software module attaches a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink (via display portion **52** in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16). The file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and includes information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.

A fifth software module submits the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 11-21). A sixth software module transmits evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail (page 11, lines 9-22).

Independent Claim 42 is directed to an intranet **10** for distributing an invention disclosure. See page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1, as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2. The intranet **10** has a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel

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information stored within the intranet. The intranet comprises at least one computing device 18 comprising a plurality of software modules.

The plurality of software modules comprises a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet (via display portion 50 in FIG. 3), and a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4). The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention.

A third software module selects an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure. A fourth software module attaches a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, with the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16).

A fifth software module submits the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet (page 10, lines 11-21). A sixth software module creates a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor (page 9, line 18 through page 10, line 2). A seventh software module transmits a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile. The first group of users is within the plurality of users and include a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 11-21).

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An eighth software module selects at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator. A ninth software module transmits a second notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, with the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 22-31). A tenth software module submits evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator. An eleventh software module submits a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments. A twelfth software module transmits the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users (page 11, lines 9-22).

Independent Claim 52 is directed to an intranet 10 for distributing an invention disclosure. See page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1, as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2. The intranet has a plurality of users enrolled therein. Each of the plurality of users has associated personnel information stored within the intranet. The intranet comprises at least one computing device 18 comprising a plurality of software modules.

The plurality of software modules comprises a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet (via display portion 50 in FIG. 3), and a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4). The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention.

A third software module selects an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure. A fourth software module attaches a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink

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(via display portion 52 in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16). The file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and includes information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.

A fifth software module submits the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet (page 10, lines 11-21). A sixth software module creates a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor (page 9, line 18 through page 10, line 2). A seventh software module transmits a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile. The first group of users is within the plurality of users (page 10, lines 11-21).

An eighth software module transmits a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile. The second group of users is within the plurality of users, and includes a technical review coordinator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure (page 10, lines 22-31).

A ninth software module selects at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator. A tenth software module transmits a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator. The third notification message has a hyperlink to the invention disclosure. An eleventh software module submits evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator. A twelfth software module submits a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments. A thirteenth software module transmits the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the

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first and second group of users (page 11, lines 1-22).

Independent Claim 61 is directed to a computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform steps comprising accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet 10, and creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form. See page 7, line 3 through page 8, line 29 and FIG. 1, as well as page 8, line 30 through page 11, line 22 and FIG. 2. The invention disclosure is created by an inventor and includes information about an invention.

An option in the invention disclosure template form is selected to include an attachment with the invention disclosure. A file is attached to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink. The file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and includes information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure (via display portion 52 in FIG. 4, and page 14, lines 14-24 and as illustrated in FIG. 16). The invention disclosure is submitted along with the attached file over the intranet 10 to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure. Evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file are transmitted by the at least one evaluator via e-mail (page 14, line 32 through page 15, line 10).

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed On Appeal

Claims 60-68 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-9, 11-19, 21-28, 30-39, 41-49, 51-58, 60-68 and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hager et al patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,377,355) in view of the Kuzma patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,781,901).

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(7) Arguments

I. The Computer-Readable Medium Claims Are Directed To Statutory Subject Matter

Claims 62-68 and 70 are directed to a computer-readable medium. The Examiner rejected these claims as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Descriptive material can be characterized as either "functional descriptive material" or "nonfunctional descriptive material." In this context, "functional descriptive material" consists of data structures and computer programs that impart functionality when employed as a computer component. The definition of "data structure" is "a physical or logical relationship among data elements, designed to support specific data manipulation functions."

"Nonfunctional descriptive material" includes but is not limited to music, literary works, and a compilation or mere arrangement of data. Both types of "descriptive material" are nonstatutory when claimed as descriptive material per se. However, when functional descriptive material is recorded on a computer-readable medium, it becomes structurally and functionally interrelated to the medium and will be statutory since use of technology permits the function of the descriptive material to be realized.

The Appellants submit that all of the elements in independent Claim 62 directed to a computer-readable medium are structurally and functionally interrelated. Claim 62 is more than a mere arrangement of data. For example, after the invention disclosure template is accessed from over the intranet, an invention disclosure is created using the invention disclosure template form. Consequently, these two claim elements are structurally and functionally interrelated. The inter-

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relationship continues with the rest of the claim elements.

As an example, computer-readable medium claims are provided in U.S. Patent Nos. 7,181,764 and 7,181,734. These claims are structurally and functionally interrelated as are the claims in the present case. Accordingly, it is submitted that Claims 62-68 and 70 are directed to statutory subject matter.

II. The Claims Are Patentable Over Hager Et Al. In View Of Kuzma
In the Hager et al. patent, an automation of procedures in a local area network (LAN) environment is disclosed. The procedures are automated in a data processing system with regard to the invention disclosures stored therein. As correctly noted by the Examiner, Hager et al. fails to disclose 1) an attachment for the invention disclosure that is created separate from the invention disclosure and is then attached thereto, and 2) submitting the invention disclosure to at least one evaluator with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

The Examiner takes Official Notice that it is well known in the art at the time of the invention to send a hyperlink to a document instead of an entire document. The Examiner thus takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Hager et al. with the idea of sending a hyperlink instead of an entire document.

In addition, the Examiner cited the Kuzma patent as disclosing an attachment being included with a document. However, the Examiner correctly notes that the selective combination of Hager et al. and Kuzma fails to teach or suggest attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, with the file having been created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure, and including information

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about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.

Nonetheless, the Examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to attach a Word or Powerpoint document as argued by the Appellants rather than attach a hyperlink to such a document.

At the time of the invention, Hager et al. discloses in a local area network (LAN) environment automated procedures in a data processing system with regard to the invention disclosures stored therein. Referring initially to FIG. 2 of Hager et al. (reproduced below), a high level flow chart illustrating the creation of an invention disclosure document is provided. Reference is directed to column 4, lines 44-53 of Hager et al., which provides:

"As is illustrated, the process begins at block 48 and thereafter passes to block 50 which depicts the creation of an invention disclosure document. In the preferred embodiment, the user is prompted for personal information about each inventor, critical dates information about statutory bar dates, and information about the problem solved and the solution. Next, block 52 gives the user the opportunity to revise the invention disclosure document, if such revision is necessary." (Emphasis added).

As highlighted above, in the preferred embodiment of Hager et al., the user is prompted for information about the problem solved and the solution. This means that the information to be evaluated as part of the invention disclosure must be typed in by the user.

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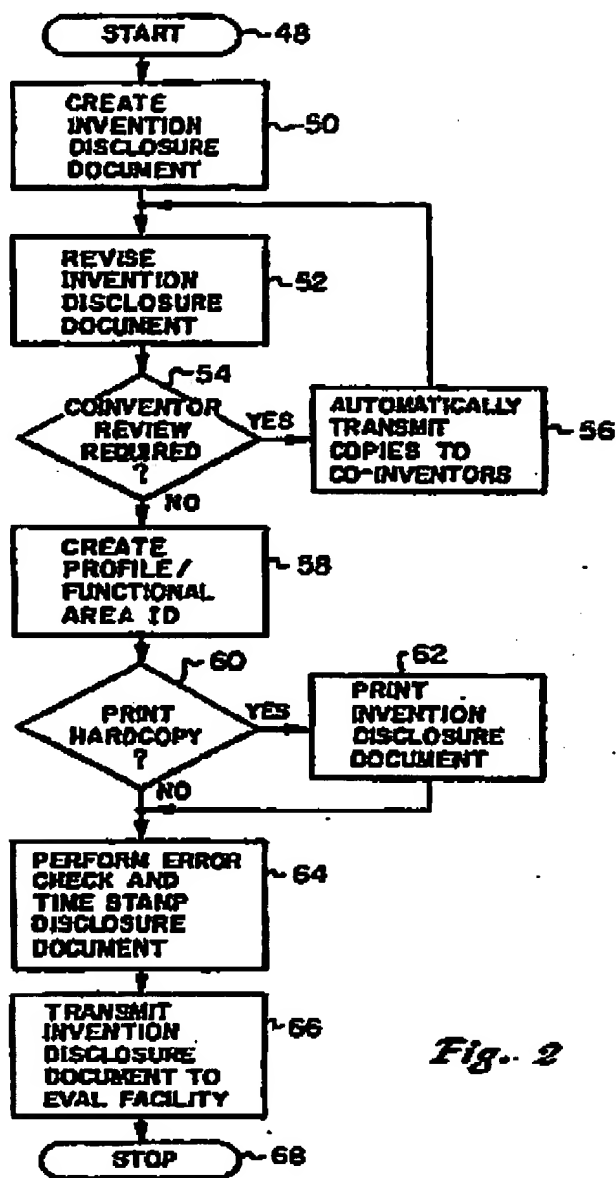
*Fig. 2*

FIG. 2 of Hager et al.

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If the amount of information to be entered is rather large, then this becomes a labor intensive and time consuming task for the inventor as well as not being user friendly to the inventor. If the inventor becomes impatient and fails to provide a sufficient amount of information about his invention, then one or more of the evaluators may not properly understand or appreciate the invention - thus resulting in an unfavorable evaluation.

Hager et al. thus fails to teach or suggest providing options to the inventor when creating an invention disclosure, wherein a file describing the invention can be attached to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, as recited in the claimed invention.

An object of the Hager et al. patent is to automatically generate reports and to initiate additional procedures with regards to the invention disclosure document within a data processing system. In other words, Hager et al. provides sufficient detail on soliciting an evaluation vote from users automatically determined in response to identification of a functional area associated with the invention disclosure, as illustrated in FIGS. 3-5. However, Hager et al. simply fails to provide options to the inventor when creating an invention disclosure.

Referring now to the Kuzma patent, e-mail attachments are transmitted from a sender of a network to a recipient of the network. The attachments are stored in a storage device visible to the network and relatively local to the sender. Each attachment has a unique network address associated therewith. The sender requests an e-mail option from the recipient, which provides a configurable e-mail page to the sender in response to the request. An attachment reference comprising the network

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address of the attachment is supplied to the configurable e-mail page. Reference is directed to column 4, line 65 to column 5, line 6 of Kuzma, which provides:

"Referring now to FIG. 4, there is illustrated an e-mail message format 400 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. In the e-mail message format 400 of the present invention, when a user such as PC 210 of FIG. 2 wishes to send an attachment with an e-mail message to a user such as PC 212, the e-mail message 401 is transmitted along with a relatively small attachment reference 402, instead of actually transmitting the entire attachment file along with e-mail message 401 ..."
(Emphasis added.)

As correctly noted by the Examiner, the attachment as disclosed in Kuzma is created separate from the document (i.e., an e-mail), and the attachment is included with the document. The Examiner has taken the position that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hager et al. with the teachings of Kuzma regarding creating an attachment separately from a document.

The Appellants respectfully submit that even if the references were combined as suggested by the Examiner, the claimed invention is still not produced. Kuzma discloses the use of an attachment reference being supplied with the document instead of supplying the contents of the attachment. The attachment reference is essentially a hyperlink to the attachment.

In sharp contrast, the present invention recites that the file is attached to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink. When a file in the present invention is attached

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to the invention disclosure, it is "fixed" thereto, i.e., the contents of the file are sent along with the invention disclosure itself. As a result of the inventor being able to easily add information about the invention to the invention disclosure, the evaluators are more likely to provide an accurate evaluation of the invention.

Consequently, since Kuzma discloses that a hyperlink is used to attach a file to an e-mail, there is simply no motivation to selectively combine the references as suggested by the Examiner. It thus appears that the Examiner is using impermissible hindsight reconstruction to modify the Hager et al. patent in view of the Kuzma patent in an attempt to produce the claimed invention. The prior art references, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest 1) selecting an option in an invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure, and 2) attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, wherein the file is created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and includes information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure.


Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Hager et al. in view of Kuzma. Independent Claims 12, 22, 31, 42, 52 and 61 are similar to independent Claim 1. Therefore, it is submitted that these claims are also patentable over Hager et al. in view of Kuzma. In view of the patentability of independent Claims 1, 12, 22, 31, 42, 52 and 61, it is submitted that their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features of the invention, are also patentable. These dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

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III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing arguments, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable over the prior art. Accordingly, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences is respectfully requested to reverse the earlier unfavorable decision by the Examiner.

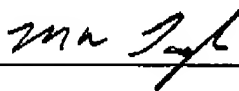
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 571-273-8300 to the Commissioner for Patents on this 9 day of November, 2007.



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APPENDIX A - CLAIMS ON APPEAL
FOR U.S. PATENT APPLICATION SERIAL NO. 09/596,629

1. A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method further comprising the steps of:

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creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

4. A method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

5. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

6. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

7. A method according to Claim 6, wherein the profile

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further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

8. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

9. A method according to Claim 8, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 10 (Cancelled).

11. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

12. A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure

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template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

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13. A method according to Claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting the third notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

16. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

17. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

19. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the first

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group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 20 (Cancelled).

21. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

22. A method for distributing an invention disclosure over an intranet, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the method comprising the steps of:

- accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

- creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

- selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

- attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

- submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

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creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users;

transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second group of users.

23. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

24. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of transmitting the second notification message is responsive to

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submission of the invention disclosure.

25. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

26. A method according to Claim 25, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

27. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the first group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

28. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the second group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 29 (Cancelled).

30. A method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of creating comprises sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

31. An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of

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software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising
a first software module for accessing an
invention disclosure template form over the intranet,
a second software module for creating an
invention disclosure using the invention disclosure
template form, the invention disclosure being created
by an inventor and including information about an
invention,

a third software module for selecting an
option in the invention disclosure template form to
include an attachment with the invention disclosure,

a fourth software module for attaching a file
to the invention disclosure without the use of a
hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor
separate from the invention disclosure and including
information about the invention that is not included in
the invention disclosure,

a fifth software module for submitting the
invention disclosure along with the attached file
over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-
mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure,
and

a sixth software module for transmitting
evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the
attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

32. An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the
intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each
user having associated personnel information stored within the
intranet, further comprising:

a seventh software module for creating a profile of the

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invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

an eight software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

33. An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the at least one evaluator is selected by the technical review coordinator.

34. An intranet according to Claim 33, further comprising:

a ninth software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a tenth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

35. An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the eighth software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

36. An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

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37. An intranet according to Claim 36, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

38. An intranet according to Claim 32, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

39. An intranet according to Claim 38, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 40 (Cancelled).

41. An intranet according to Claim 31, wherein the fifth software module comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

42. An intranet for distributing an invention disclosure, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the intranet comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising
a first software module for accessing an
invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

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a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

a third software module for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

a fifth software module for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

a sixth software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

a seventh software module for transmitting a first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

an eighth software module for selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review

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coordinator;

a ninth software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

a tenth software module for submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

an eleventh software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a twelfth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first group of users.

43. An intranet according to Claim 42, further comprising:

a thirteenth software module for transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users; and

wherein the twelfth software module further transmits the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the second group of users.

44. An intranet according to Claim 43, wherein the thirteenth software module for transmitting the third notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

45. An intranet according to Claim 43, wherein the

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second group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

46. An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the seventh software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

47. An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

48. An intranet according to Claim 47, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

49. An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 50 (Cancelled).

51. An intranet according to Claim 42, wherein the fifth software module further comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

52. An intranet for distributing an invention

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disclosure, the intranet having a plurality of users enrolled therein, each of the plurality of users having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the intranet comprising:

at least one computing device comprising a plurality of software modules, said plurality of software modules comprising

a first software module for accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

a second software module for creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

a third software module for selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

a fourth software module for attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

a fifth software module for submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet;

a sixth software module for creating a profile of the invention disclosure based upon a technical area relating to the invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor;

a seventh software module for transmitting a

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first notification message via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users;

an eighth software module for transmitting a second notification message via e-mail to a second group of users based upon the created profile, the second group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the second notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

a ninth software module for selecting at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator;

a tenth software module for transmitting a third notification message via e-mail to the at least one evaluator, the third notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure;

an eleventh software module for submitting evaluation comments by the at least one evaluator;

a twelfth software module for submitting a recommendation of the invention disclosure by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

a thirteenth software module for transmitting the recommendation of the invention disclosure via e-mail to the first and second group of users.

53. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the seventh software module for transmitting the first notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

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54. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the eighth fourth software module for transmitting the second notification message is responsive to submission of the invention disclosure.

55. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the profile comprises a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

56. An intranet according to Claim 55, wherein the profile further comprises information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

57. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the first group of users comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

58. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the second group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

Claim 59 (Cancelled).

60. An intranet according to Claim 52, wherein the fifth software module for creating the invention disclosure further comprises instructions for sending a notification message to a co-inventor, the notification message being transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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61. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for causing a computer to perform steps comprising:

accessing an invention disclosure template form over the intranet;

creating an invention disclosure using the invention disclosure template form, the invention disclosure being created by an inventor and including information about an invention;

selecting an option in the invention disclosure template form to include an attachment with the invention disclosure;

attaching a file to the invention disclosure without the use of a hyperlink, the file being created by the inventor separate from the invention disclosure and including information about the invention that is not included in the invention disclosure;

submitting the invention disclosure along with the attached file over the intranet to at least one evaluator via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure; and

transmitting evaluation comments on the invention disclosure and the attached file by the at least one evaluator via e-mail.

62. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 61, wherein the intranet includes a plurality of users enrolled therein with each user having associated personnel information stored within the intranet, the computer-readable medium further causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

generating a profile of the invention disclosure, the profile being based upon a technical area relating to the

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invention disclosure in response to accessing associated personnel information of the inventor; and

generating a first notification message to be transmitted via e-mail to a first group of users based upon the created profile, the first group of users being within the plurality of users and including a technical review coordinator, the first notification message having a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

63: A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, further causing the computer to perform steps comprising selection of the at least one evaluator by the technical review coordinator.

64. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 63, further causing the computer to perform steps comprising:

generating a recommendation of the invention disclosure submitted by the technical review coordinator based upon the evaluation comments; and

generating an e-mail message of the recommendation of the invention disclosure to be transmitted to the first group of users.

65. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the profile comprises data representing a functional manager of the inventor, a patent attorney, a technical review person, and a contracts person if the invention was developed under government funds.

66. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 65, wherein the profile further comprises data representing

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information relating to the inventor including the inventor's employee number, department number, building number, phone number and e-mail address.

67. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein the first group of users comprises a technical review coordinator, a contract administrator if the invention was developed under government funds, and an intellectual property administrator.

68. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 67, wherein the first group of users further comprises a business area manager, a supervisor of the inventor, and the inventor.

Claim 69 (Cancelled).

70. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 62, wherein generating the profile comprises generating a notification message to be transmitted to a co-inventor, the notification message to be transmitted via e-mail with a hyperlink to the invention disclosure.

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APPENDIX B - EVIDENCE APPENDIX
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1) (ix)

None.

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APPENDIX C - RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 41.37(c)(1)(x)

None.